

Michigan Even Start

Family Literacy Continues to Improve in Michigan!



The Even Start Family Literacy Program

strives to break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy by improving educational opportunities for families. This is accomplished by integrating early childhood education, adult literacy and adult basic education, parent-child interactive literacy and parenting education into a unified literacy program.

"Even Start is like no other program in the nation. In addition to providing parents with literacy skills, it empowers them with life, employment and parenting skills that help strengthen families and lead to self-sufficiency." Senator Hillary Clinton



Description of Even Start Families (2005-2006)

- 96% of families had incomes below the poverty level*
- 98% of adults did not have a high school diploma*
- 69% of the adults were not employed
- 31% of the unemployed participants obtained employment
- 63% of adult participants were 16-24 years old
- 41% of adults had not gone beyond ninth grade*

*These percents were all higher for 2005-06 than for the previous year (2004-05)

About Michigan Even Start

- There were 29 programs in 25 counties that served a total of 1,110 families (an average of 41) in the most recent reporting year (2005-2006).
- 1,402 children were served; 58% were younger than three years old.
- The average number of instructional hours programs offered to adults was 14,009.
- Even Start programs offer four components: interactive family literacy, parenting education, early childhood education and adult education.
- Information is collected yearly to identify areas that are functioning well and those that need improvement. Evaluation is in place to assess competency related to 17 specific outcomes in these areas: General Program and Family Information, Child and Adult Outcomes, and Parenting and Parent-Child Interactive Literacy.
- Findings from data analysis are used to drive continuous improvement at the local level and identify areas where additional support and technical assistance are needed from state staff.

Michigan Even Start Family Literacy Program is a component of Michigan Department of Education, Office of Early Childhood Education and Family Services. For information contact Renée De Mars-Johnson or Cheryl Hall (517) 373-8483 or visit the web site www.michigan.gov/evenstart.

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INCREASES FOR PROGRAMS THAT WERE MEETING PROGRAM TARGETS

ASSESSMENT ITEM/INDICATOR	2004-2005	2005-2006	CHANGE (%)
	PER PROGRAM	PER PROGRAM	
Children reading at grade level	42%	67%	+25
Children with a 90% attendance rate	87%	96%	+9
Adults demonstrating growth in all basic skill areas	40%	46%	+6
Adults earning credit toward a diploma	85%	90%	+5

MICHIGAN EVEN START INDICATORS/OUTCOMES

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	CHANGE
Percentage of children scoring above the cut-off on a developmental assessment	82%	87%	92%	+10
Percentage of school-age (K-2) children promoted to next level	93%	89%	93%	0
Percentage of adults with growth of ≥ 1.0 grade level in at least one skill area	59%	65%	70%	+11
Percentage of adults with at least 75% of credits needed for a diploma who graduated within two years	66%	68%	77%	+8
Percentage of ESL (English As a Second Language) participants demonstrating a gain during one year	89%	92%	88%	-1
Percentage of adult participants who earned a GED in two years	83%	82%	79%	-4
Percentage of adults completing a GED, diploma or achieving English proficiency who continued with more education, job training or obtained employment	62%	64%	56%	-6